

Blairsville Kiwanis Fair a family favorite

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The Kiwanis Fair was in Blairsville last week, and despite a heavy rain and thunderstorms rolling in late Thursday evening, you couldn't ask for better weather than what they had from April 9th through April 14th.

The fair included rides and contests for all ages from pony rides and Merry-Go-Rounds for smaller children to funnel cakes and heart stopping thrill rides for those still young at heart.

License plates could be seen from all over Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, and even as far away as Kentucky.

Obviously the most popular rides of the fair were the X-Factory, the Moon Shot, and the Cyclops.

"I had so much fun," said fourth grader Keera Smart. "I rode the X-Factory 10 times and the Cyclops five times. There was one boy who said he rode the X-Factory more than 20 times."

The crowd remained strong and steady up until closing time at 10 p.m. when fair workers literally had to turn off the lights, the music,



The X-Factory was a hit with young and old alike at the Blairsville Kiwanis Fair at the Industrial Park off Georgia 515. Photos by Lowell Nicholson

and send the fun-loving crowd home.

With a wide variety of music being played through the Public Address system, there was plenty of dancing taking place as well.

However, the most popular song of the evening was "Gangnam Style" as the extremely-popular dance routine broke out on the X-Factory ride.

"If you have a song request, write it on a \$10 dollar bill and give it to me, and I might play it," said one of the

one of the operators of the Cyclops when someone would shout out a particular song.

The general consensus afterwards was that this fair was more entertaining than the Georgia Mountain Fair in Hiwassee due to better rides and a smaller crowd.

"You can't beat this," Union County School's Assistant Superintendent Jeremy Williams said. "I think that fair is a great idea because it's a lot of fun and the lines aren't that long."

The Blairsville Kiwanis

Club was chartered Sept. 13, 1950.

The club has been going and growing strong ever since.

The club is dedicated to serving and supporting the young people in our community through its many service projects.

The Blairsville Kiwanis Club meets Every Monday at Noon at Steve's Steakhouse in Blairsville for Lunch where you can learn about joining the Kiwanis to help serve the children in the community.



Blood Drive ...continued from Page 1A



Cindy Williams donates a pint of blood during the first Derrick Whittle Blood Drive at the Union County Courthouse. Photo/Todd Forrest

Another Blood Drive in Whittle's memory will take place at Union County High School on Wednesday, April 17th from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

"It's good that we can honor him and at the same time, get blood to those people who need it," Derrick Whittle's father Jim Whittle said. "Derrick loved everybody in Union County and his service is truly missed."

According to Wilson, "Blood Assurance is a non-profit, full-service regional blood center serving more than 50 health care facilities in Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama

and North Carolina. Founded in 1972 as a joint effort of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Medical Society, the Chattanooga Area Hospital Council, and the Chattanooga Jaycees, the mission of Blood Assurance is to provide a safe and adequate supply of blood and blood components to every area patient in need."

If you were unable to donate blood last week, Wilson and the Whittle family encourage everyone to come out on Wednesday for the blood drive at Union County High School.

Free Tour at Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center



GMREC tour tractor

The Community Council of The Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center announce two free tours of the research Center. The 415 acre GMRE Center was established in 1930 and is the oldest branch experiment station of The University of Georgia. The GMRE Center is unique in The University of Georgia system because of its location at the southern end of the Appalachian Mountains and its growing season which is similar to southern Canada.

The tours will be conducted via a tractor pulled wagon. The open air wagon has seats but does require that participants climb 2 or 3 steps. Additional walking will not be required. The date and times of the tours will be: Thursday, April 25, 2013 at 1 p.m. and at

3 p.m. In the event of inclement weather the tour will be cancelled.

Registered participants will have a chance to see: Abelia (Woody Ornamentals) Cultivars; American Chestnut Nursery; Apple Research Orchards; Blueberry Research Cultivars; Grape Myrtle Cultivars; Original stone cannery and smokehouse; Grape Disease Vineyard; The Ethno-Botanic Garden; The G.M.R.E.C. picnic pavilion; The Historic Jarrett Apple House and The Youth program sites.

Interested persons should call 706-745-2655 to register. Each tour is limited to 22 adults. Plan to arrive 30 minutes prior to the tour and park in the upper parking lot behind the administrative building. NT(Apr17,23)CA